From: Pam Townsend
To: Scoping, Delta Plan@Delta Council
Subject: Draft of Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Plan
Date: Saturday, January 29, 2011 1:09:44 AM

In response to the Delta Stewardship Council, it's difficult to understand if their sole purpose is to scare us and antagonize us. The reason for this statement is the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Plan indicates otherwise than what they have said to us in these meetings. The models have made us out to be grossly negligent in our ability to conserve water in the area. The history and patterns of rain, as well as drought, have impacted our eco system and water table that still has not recovered completley here in the North Sacramento Valley and surrounding foothills. The lack of knowledge by the council and other water agencies and groups that have compiled these models, do not understand Butte County's inability of its infastructure to distribute water in many and much needed places, because of the lack of resources to divert the water. For instance, agriculture along the region of the water source, (river, creek, irrigation ditch), has seen water allotments lowered to the point agriculture is not substanable and rights to water have been lost. The impact was not understood by the information compiled for the models. This is because of the lack of infastructure, and inability to receive or to convert water from other water agencies to replace the water allotments and rights along the Feather River and other water sources that are no longer available. This

will devastate small naturally locally grown agriculture all the way up to the larger agriculture operations. The population of Butte County has over 90% of its income, (jobs), from agriculture. This will cause a great negative impact on taxes coming into our county, as well as other counties in the Northern Sacramento Valley. The tax base drop will impact police, fire, and other emergency agencies to decline, along with other county government to 10% of what exists today....If we're lucky.

Desailination plants, which have been used on ships for close to 100 years, if are not introduced and utilized for or by our fellow Californians, our state tax base could fail and the government of our state which is financed by 90+% income in agriculture may be impacted in a way that may be too late to save our government of California. The lack of concern for our environment, ecosystem, 500 to 600 year old trees in the No. Sac. Valley, which will die or become diseased from the lack of water if and when the water table of the valley is drawn down by the transfer of it. We do not want this repeated, as happened in Sacramento Valley rainy seasons of 1996-1997 to current date. Ground water table levels still have not replenished themselves to levels prior to the drought of Fall 1996 levels. Also, please refer to the drought/rainy season 1974, 1975, 1976 and the water table recovery time from that drought. Are we to stand by and allow history to repeat itself as we have seen with the water transfers from the Southern San Joaquin Valley

and Owens Valley, etc., etc.? What has been said and explained to us is, "That's what mitigation is for." Unfortunatley, mitigation for us would be too little, too late.
There is an understanding an expensive attempt was made to reintroduce water into the collapsed aquafirs by running water out onto the surface of the ground. It failed to replenish the areas that were dried up by water transfers. Districts were later drilled and water pumped into these holes to reintroduce water into those collapsed aquafirs below ground, and it failed to reintroduce water into those collapsed aquafirs. According to the documents the failulre was minimal but the cost was astronomical and failed to reintroduce water into the water table below ground. These areas are devastated from the water transfers and not refurbashed according to photos and scientific analysis of the eco system that has been lost. Fisheries are already impacted by water transfer, because of the drop in temperture in the streams, rivers, waterways, and the Bay Delta. Impact even involves the delta smelt, which the Delta Stewardship Council are trying to protect. These drops in water tempertures caused by the gain in water flow are retarding the growth of algies that the delta smelt and the native fingerling fisheries, (salmon, steel head, striper, trout, sturgeon, etc.), of which we have become accustomed to. All have had a decrease in numbers because of this, and yet there seems to be no concern at all levels of these commissions, including Fish and Game. When a drought returns, we cannot afford

the economic impact that would occur on our eco system to transport water or lower our inground aquafirs in the Northern Sacramento Valley and surrounding foothills. In essence, this and more, to compile and digest who is involved in transporting water can consider themselves environmentalists, when they themselves state that the rising ocean will cause salt water to infiltrate Bay Delta. Considering high tides with storms will more than likely cause salt water to move throughtout the delta, as it was before the delta was used to transport water. The Delta Stewardship Councils drafted an environmental impact report for the delta plan, stating that the ocean will rise by 55 inches by the year 2100. The Delta Stewardship Council can take all the ground water and other transfers to inflow fresh water and still be incapable of stopping or controlling the ocean level rising to 55 inches and salt water encroaching throughout the delta . It's hard to fathom or understand not utilizing ship locks in narrow portions of the eastern delta with fish ladders to contain and control salt water infiltration, which in the same way is a false environment. The same false environment that the Delta Stewardship Council and other agencies are hoping to impliment to increase the fresh water delta flow for non-native and invasive species that depend on fresh water to live, in the delta.

It has been made clear by many organizations in these water transfer meetings, along with the Delta Stewarship Council, that I and others do

not want change. This is correct, but not the way they think. Salt water was throughout our delta during low fresh water inflow or drought, causing salt water to infiltrate pockets throughout the eastern delta. This was before the delta was implimented for water transfer to central California, San Joaquin Valley, and Los Angeles area. Again, it seems the culprit is water transfer in the delta.

With the lack of the history prior to 80 years ago, which the models are based on, we understand droughts can run from 60 to 150+ years according to geologists, foresters, looking at tree rings. Why is this not implimented in these models for accuracy for science? The lack of knowledge about the impact to the underground water table (aquafirs) of the Northern Sacramento Valley, foothills, and mountains, the courts may be too late to save our very old trees, which cannot be refunded or replaced by mitigation, land settlling by lowering water table in our aquafirs causing collapse, or our eco system matching other regions from water transfers have devistated in this state alone. Water transfers have had an unreasonable impact in the Southern Bay Delta Basin tributaries. You now will complete the devistation to all the northern tributaries of the Bay Delta Basin. Our delta will become something you or I will not recognize. I hope you're ready for change that the Delta Stewardship Council said we are not ready for. Again, I agree with them. I am not ready for the change the Delta Stewardship

Council is implimenting. A false environment is not a natural environment. We have seen the change here in the Feather River and our fisheries from the water temperture change, and higher water levels throughout the summer, when the water levels are 3 to 4 feet lower, and the tempertures are 2 to 2 1/2 times warmer. Our fisheries records had healthier and higher populations. If you want natural, do away with water transfer through the delta, allow the natural water flow as it's always been, and utilize desailination plants, which have been used on ships and take very little room, for close to 100 years.
Respectfully submitted,
JAMES D. TOWNSEND